



# *The Trail Blazer*

OFFICIAL ORGAN METROPOLITAN HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION · OAKLAND, CALIF.



IDIOT'S DELIGHT takes Past President's Perpetual Trophy at M. H. A. Oakland show., L. to R.: George Walling, ringmaster, Deane Burton, owner, Norma Burton, rider, and Mrs. Heber James Brown, who presented the trophy.

**AUGUST, 1950**

**COMING SEPT. 14 - OPEN MEETING**  
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## The Trail Blazer

published monthly by the  
**METROPOLITAN HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION**  
Oakland, California

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### M. H. A. OFFICERS — 1950

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### NEXT BOARD MEETING

Open Meeting, Thursday, September 14  
Time 8:00 P. M.  
Place: Theatre of Sun Electric Corp.,  
11th and Grove Streets

## MHA TRAILS AID FIREMEN

Two large brush fires in the hill area have both been stopped faster because of MHA Trails. Both fires occurred on the Leona Heights ridge and not only were they slowed up and even stopped in spots by the MHA trail, but one of the trails was used by the Oakland Fire Department equipment to secure access to the threatened area.

NOW is the dangerous fire season! MHA horsemen can be counted on to prevent fires in the riding areas.

AUGUST, 1950

# NOW — OR NEVER

## Committee Proposes Immediate Major Trail Plan

Suppose every piece of property from Montclair to 107th Avenue, and from Mountain Boulevard to the borders of Sequoia and Redwood Regional Parks, was built upon, and sidewalks and paved streets replaced trails and open areas. HOW would horsemen reach the trails within the parks? IT CAN HAPPEN . . . IT WILL HAPPEN . . . If the MHA does not work out a MAJOR PLAN FOR TRAILS OUTSIDE THE PARK BORDERS.

Before asking for such trails, the MHA must have a definite plan; before any such plan can be evolved it is necessary to have a MAP OF THE WHOLE AREA. At the present time, each area is mapped on a different scale; some areas are not yet surveyed; no contour lines, necessary for plotting trails, have been set up in any of the areas. The Trail Committee has therefore asked the Board of Directors for an appropriation up to \$500 to have an adequate map made so that the organization may have correct data upon which to base requests for equestrian trails.

## Four Major Objectives Listed

The first objectives of the Trails Committee are to secure routes over the following areas: 1. from Mountain Boulevard up Leona and Dark Canyon and connecting with the Bert York Trail; 2. a route along Skyline from Redwood Road to Grass Valley Road; 3. a route from the area near Don and Ann's to the park boundaries; 4. an improved or entirely new route through Redwood Canyon.

At the July meeting of the Trails Committee, Chairman George Daniels outlined the four major routes needed, and also suggested several plans for re-routing and improving dangerous trails in Sequoia Park.

The membership of MHA is asked to consider the necessity of a major, long range plan for trails and the importance of securing access routes to our parks . . . NOW.



# LOCAL HORSEMEN WIN IN 7 OF 9 EVENTS

## Juniors Take Relay Race, Curry Takes Stake Race for MHA IN Region 5 Eliminations

Horsemen of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties (known as Region 5 in the California State Horsemen's Association) met in Concord July 15 and 16 to compete for regional championships. Winners will represent Region 5 at the CSHA Blue Ribbon Show and Convention in Palm Springs next October.

Junior girl champion: Corinne Smith.  
2nd: Celia Gray of Walnut Creek.

Junior boy champion: Bill Barnard.  
2nd: Ward Gallo.

Senior drill teams: Aahmes Shrine Mounted Patrol. 2nd: Alameda Co. Sheriff's Mounted Posse.

Junior drill teams: Concord Flying Horsemen. 2nd: MHA Juniors.

Relay race teams: MHA Juniors.

Stake race: Johnny Curry, representing MHA.

Team roping: Arlington Hills Riding Club.

Calf roping: Ed Gomez.

Ring spearing: Aahmes Shrine Mounted Patrol team.

## RELAY TEAM FOR COW PALACE

According to the CSHA magazine, "The Horseman," all regional winners of the relay team race event will be invited to appear in a series of competitions at the Cow Palace, during the Grand National Livestock and Horse Show; the winners at each performance to appear at the last performance in a super-championship bout.

## REGION 5 SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

MHA's contenders in team roping were Bill Patten and Ken Corbett; in calf roping it was Bill Patten. In both events, the wrong things seemed to happen.

The Contra Costa Co. Rangers were new participants this year among the senior drill teams, although a few years back they were well known for their beautiful drill. In this event, the Shriners successfully upheld their Region 5 championship, followed closely by the Alameda Co. Sheriff's Posse in a brilliant performance.

## ARMSTRONG FOR ASSEMBLYMAN

Contra Costa Co. horsemen will be glad to know that Leo Armstrong, now serving his third year as President of the San Pablo Horsemen's Association, is running for state Assemblyman from the 10th Assembly District.

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# ENTIRE M.H.A. WORKED ON HORSE SHOW

**Last Month You Heard Who Won: Now Get Behind the Scenes**

While a complete list of who-did-what would read like the membership roster, and every committeeman turned out to help in many capacities other than the one listed in the program, here are a few side-lights:

Deane Burton spent her vacation working on Classifications and Entries, and helping on details at show headquarters.

Mrs. Lonnie McNally selected and supervised the music; she also acted as Secretary while Cathy Jacobs had to be away, during the last week before the show.

Bernie Cummings and Bill Barnard covered the East Bay with announcements by way of a sound truck, and the Western Stables wagon, with Jim driving, also publicized the show.

*Publicity:* Blanche Paul worked tirelessly to get pictures and news stories for the papers, for more than a month. And Sunday before the show, Horse Show Manager McNally and President Heber Brown were interviewed by Lynn M. F. Harriss, Assistant Superintendent of Parks. Next year, television?

*During the Show:* Mrs. Joe Stern must have sold hundreds of programs for the M. H. A. Juniors.

Among the ticket-takers and aides were: Phoebe Farrar and Alice Merritt, Dutch Cummings and Vi Schumacher, Mary Gale and Barbara Gurley, Gus and Elsa Himmelman, Ida Myers, Bobbye Stewart, Al and Alice Peterson, Eve Dager, Ted Jahn, Mae and Martin Murray, Don Bjornsen and Herb Lombardi.

Mounted horsemen who helped in parking and ticket-taking were Louis Albert, Floyd Jacobs, Joe Merritt, Roger Farrar, and A. J. McCosker. Ed Martin, Dr. J. C. Campbell, Joe Stern and many more assisted as ushers.

*Ring and Ground Crews:* A special vote of thanks goes to George Walling, Ringmaster, and his able assistants on gates and ground equipment: Henry Rubinstein, John Thiel, Bill Patten, Harold Cummings.

And thanks to Kay Walling, whose Juniors did a fine job as ring crew. On Saturday they were: Bill Barnard, chairman, Bob Baker, Dewain Flannigan, Johnny Petersen and Gary King. On Sunday: Ward Gallo, chairman, Bernie Cummings, Don Flannigan, Ronnie Dunniway, and Jack Miller.

*Parking and Policing:* Taking over because Mel Coe was called away, Jim Myers did an outstanding job on Parking. (Proving himself something of an athlete, Jim set up the chairs the evening before the show, too, aided by Dutch Cummings and Lonnie McNally. Bud Vogel testifies there must have been several millions of them.)

And the waterwagon? That was through the courtesy of A. J. McCosker.

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# President Brown Reports at Half Year

We couldn't get a word out of him until the half-way mark, but here at last is President Heber James Brown:

"I should like to say to the officers and members of the M. H. A. that I feel very happy, and I believe we all have a right to some pride, in the progress of our affairs during the first six months of this year.

"Our membership number is most gratifying, our activities have been outstandingly successful and I believe have been enjoyed by a large majority of our members.

"I am extremely pleased with the conduct of the Trail Blazer, both with its finances and its publication.

"We believe that our Trails program, as outlined, will give us improved and permanent trails throughout the Parks and over private properties.

"Our open meetings have been well attended and comments have indicated that the presentations at the meetings have been favorably received.

"Our relationship with the public and with governmental bodies, we believe, has been improved and strengthened through the activity of our Public Relations Department and the contribution that we have been able to make to the arena in in our public Park.

"The report on the Horse Show finances is not yet complete, because our bills and our receipts are not yet all available. Neither the sponsor's money nor the City and County's money, nor the money from the ads in the program, is yet in the hands of the Treasurer. I believe our Horse Show was very successful, but will have a full report later."

## YOSEMITE TRAIL RIDE

Five riders from Oakland joined in the Yosemite Trail Ride sponsored by the Mer-

ced-Mariposa Stock Horsemen's Association: Barbara Anderson, Barbara Baxter, Vern Chappell, Sidney Chown and Inez Thompson.

The ride, which covered some 75 miles, began on June 13 and ended in Yosemite Valley June 17. Barbara Anderson and Inez Thompson rode their palominos, Surprise and Magician's Magic, and joined the Thompson family who were vacationing in the Valley, at the conclusion of the ride.

## MYERS CHECKS ELECTION RULES

At the July Directors' meeting, James A. Myers was appointed to review the by-laws with regard to election of M. H. A. officers for 1951. Elections are held in the Fall, and new Directors installed at the annual meeting in December.

## SADDLE SHOPS EXPAND

Both Earl Nanninga of Skyline Saddle Shop and Don Bentley of Pinto Ranch have added Levi's and western shirts, catering now to the needs of both horse AND rider.

Bentley's prize saddles for the M. H. A. Jrs. and the Lari-ettes have been on display at his shop.

## JUNIOR ON SCOUT TRIP

Heber Clark Brown was one of 35 Oakland Boy Scouts chosen to attend the National Jamboree in Philadelphia. Leaving on June 20, he visited Yellowstone, Chicago, Washington, D. C., New York City and Niagara Falls, returning July 16.

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# Park Department Plans for 1950 Season

President Heber James Brown, after a meeting with William Penn Mott, Superintendent of Parks, reports as follows:

The miniature train project is now nearing completion and is receiving first consideration from the Park Department. It should be completed before the end of July and immediately upon its completion, the workmen in the Park will turn their attention to the horsemen's arena. Before the end of the 1950 season, we are assured that they will complete the following projects:

1. Remove the temporary connection in the water pipe and connect the 4-inch water main to the main supply tank so that there will be sufficient water at the arena for all purposes, including emergencies.
2. Complete the piping around the arena and install the sprinkler system there. (Mr. Mott stated that he had already secured the necessary pipe to pipe the arena and that the fittings for sprinkling were readily available.)
3. Complete the toilets.
4. Cover the entire arena and surrounding area with the chips from the chipping machine.
5. Install necessary culverts for proper drainage in the area, and
6. Complete a careful study to improve parking conditions and increase parking area.

Mr. Mott stated that the Park had, up to the present time, spent in 1950 in excess of \$6,300.00 in the immediate arena area.

**RODEO AND HORSE SHOW:** Superintendent Mott is interested in promoting a combination rodeo and horse show in the arena some time this Fall and has made several contacts for that purpose.

I believe the horsemen of Oakland should encourage such an affair. I believe it would add greatly to the interest in the arena and would help with the success of future Horse Shows.

Incidentally, Mr. Mott also stated that the condition of the existing trails would be improved within a short time by building of new railings and general overhauling of the trails.

(signed) Heber James Brown, Pres.  
Metropolitan Horsemen's Association

## DOUBLE THE MEMBERSHIP AND DOUBLE THE FUN!

The paid-up membership list is higher than ever—770 now, according to Chairman Cummings and Assistant Patten. But let's keep the ball rolling. Give a membership, or bring in a neighbor!

Tell him your horse club offers dances, trail rides and field days. It sends out two horsemen's magazines a month. It works for legislation that will benefit horse owners. Right now it is working on rights of way for permanent trails to the Regional Parks. \$3.00 a year is a pretty small investment for all that. Send your friend's name, address and \$3 (\$1 for Juniors) to Treasurer Mabel Smith at the Alameda Co. Court House, 12th & Fallon Sts., Oakland.

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## JR. DRILL TEAM LEADERS

Captain and First Lieutenant for the M. H. A. Juniors were selected on performance, in a unique manner: Beginning last February, Juniors were judged for attentiveness, ability to follow directions, attendance, leadership ability, and appearance of horse, tack and rider.

Several months passed before the news was announced: Ward Gallo, Captain; Patricia Wirt, Lieutenant. Congratulations!

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M. H. A. Junior, Corinne Smith, who won the first Junior Membership Contest, wears the prize Western outfit given and made by Frank H. Kelly.

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# JUNIOR CONTEST AWARDS MADE

Membership and Trails Donation Contests for Juniors closed on July 1, with the following results:

February: Memberships: Barbara Isham, 16  
Trails Donations: Bernie Cummings, 3  
Prizes donated by Charles Gray and Harold Cummings.  
March: Memberships: Bernie Cummings, 11  
Trails Donations: Bernie Cummings, 3  
Prizes donated by Heber James Brown and Hadley Cole.  
April: Memberships: Bernie Cummings, 7  
Trails Donations: Barbara Isham, 5  
Prizes donated by Barney Weisgerber and Walt Grondona.  
May: Memberships: Bernie Cummings, 16  
Trails Donations: Janet Phillips, 3  
Prizes donated by Ed Carey and Joe Stern.  
June: Memberships: Bernie Cummings, 4  
Trails Donations: no winner

Grand prize awards for the 5-months period went to Bernie Cummings for 52 memberships and 10 trails donations. The prizes: handsome radios donated by Larry Lovier and Walter Blumert.

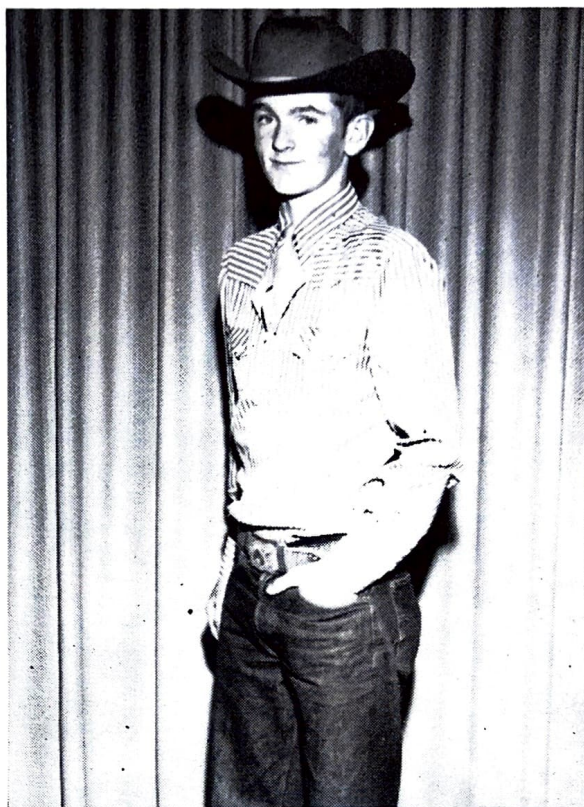
When interviewed, winner Cummings said: "Well, gosh, I just kind of plugged along."

The contest brought in 150 memberships and 18 donations for trails, collected by the Juniors. Memberships received through the regular channels and those taken on George Daniels Day, of course, were not counted in the Juniors' scores.

## "Two's Too Much," Says Bernie; Asks that Runner-Up Receive One Prize

Barbara Isham, runner-up in both membership and trails donations contests, was awarded a grand prize radio at the suggestion of winner Bernie Cummings and with the permission of donor Walter Blumert. Barbara's score: 16 memberships and 5 trails donations.

The M. H. A. is proud of the fine sportsmanship exhibited by Bernie, and proud of all the Juniors who participated in the contests.



Bernie Cummings won the grand prize in the five-months' Membership Contest for Juniors. Larry Lovier presented the handsome prize radio.

## M. H. A. JRS. BUSY ON AUG. 6 SHOW AT ROWELL RANCH

Sponsored by the M. H. A. Juniors, the open horse show at the Harry Rowell Ranch is shaping up well as we go to press. Directed by Kay Walling, the committee chairmen are: Bill Barnard, Manager; Patricia Wirt, trophies and ribbons; Bernie Cummings, ringmaster; Carol Cosgriff, ring secretary; Barbara Isham, show secretary; Janet Phillips, publicity; Ronnie Dunniway and Phebe Brown, announcers.

On July 13, photographers from the Oakland Tribune and Post Enquirer took pictures at the Neves ring, for the show.

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## POSSE TRIUMPHS AT RENO

The big, new, beautiful trophy in the Alameda Co. Sheriff's Posse Club Rooms was won in Reno, Nevada, on July 4th for being the most outstanding out-of-town unit. A good part of the credit must go to the Band—it went all out to put on one of the finest performances ever.

The Posse is fast becoming the most outstanding in California. With invitations from all over the state to participate in various activities, on top of the excellent showing of their Drill Team, this colorful group is one of which Alameda County can be justly proud.

So far this year, the Posse has had a busy schedule, both in and out of town. The drill team performed in the Hayward, Livermore and Reno rodeos with increasing success.

The annual Rowell Ride held in early June was an outstanding event in which 32 riders spent two and a half days riding through the Livermore mountains. This is really rugged country: certainly a test of good horsemanship.

For the second year in succession the Posse has won team honors at the Hayward Rodeo in greenhorn calf tying, with Bill Pray taking top honors as an individual.



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## LARI-ETTES HOLD DANCE

Next on the Lari-ettes' busy program is the August 19th dance at Norway Hall, 3829 Piedmont Ave. The time: 8:30 p. m. to 1:00 a. m. The price: just \$1.00. Proceeds will help send the unit to Palm Springs.

The girls continue taking top honors in horse shows: First places went to: Norma Burton on Monte Carlo at the Pleasanton Fair, in western pleasure; and Norma on Idiot's Delight in the hunter class. Geneva Menicucci on Hi Heels, in western pleasure at Calistoga; also best dressed cowgirl; Norma Burton on Idiot's Delight, in English Pleasure. At the San Pablo Horsemen's show on July 4th; Ruby Welch on Ribbon in western pleasure; also best dressed cowgirl.

## BOOTS AND JEANS

The Square Dance Group of Boots and Jeans received first award in a recent parade at Modesto and were featured at the evening horse show.

On July 19th, the Social Club had a hayride to Redwood Regional Park where, under Coleman lantern light and not the stars, square dancing was enjoyed to the merry tunes of Bob Johnson's western orchestra. Dusty Dale contributed to the entertainment by presenting some of his specialties. Chefs Wilton Wallace, Mary Wallace, Velma Charrette, and Chairman Bill Charrette served the barbecue dinner.

"Casey Jones Day" found the Square Dance Group at Peralta Park performing at the initial run of Oakland's miniature train, the "Oakland Acorn."

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## SHRINE MOUNTED PATROL

The 5th Region Eliminations at Concord left the drill team and ring spearing team in first place; the relay team was second.

The unit put on its exhibition drill at the San Pablo Horsemen's show on July 4. Among individual contestants, new members Joe Young and Hank Zaban took a blue for matched pairs, on Mucho Grande and King. Henry Gede's new registered mare, Serenade, is shaping up well.

It's a son-in-law for Archie Brown: daughter Opal is now Mrs. Bill Parrish. And for Colonel Adams: daughter Yvonne is Mrs. Richard Wahrer.

Dr. J. C. Campbell and Heber Brown had a rugged trip (trailer trouble) en route to the Sonoma Co. Trail Blazers ride, but both horses and riders returned in good shape.

## PIEDMONT: NEW DAUGHTER

Virginia and Bill Patten have presented Linda with a brand new sister, Kathleen Ann, who arrived June 28.

Jack and Ysabelle Pfeiffer took their horses, Spook and Punkin, with them to

Grass Valley. Other vacationers include Mitch and Mabel Robbins.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Upton are driving a beautiful new jade green Cadillac.

Mrs. Jack Sherburne is back, riding the chestnut mare, Princess. Another welcome sight is Russ Ivy, up and about after a recent illness.

Congratulations to Bob Boyette, whose saddlebred stallion, Chief, was best parade horse at San Leandro on July 4.

Piedmont Stables welcomes Charlie Spatz, and Charlie Hageman with his chestnut mare, Susan.

## PINTO RANCH NEWS

Pat Wirt has been doing lots of riding; the Seyrle boys work their colts every night and both are progressing well; Jim Heal's new quarterhorse colt is worth watching.

New boarders galore at the Pinto: Joyce Leonhardt's sorrel; Mr. Curtis and his Morgan stallion; Joe Donham's nice bay; Don Swanson's albino stallion, Rip Tide; Pete Johnstone's sorrel; Messrs. Raterbaugh and Brown of the Footprinters; Mr. and Mrs. Adams; and Eddie Silver's sorrel trail horse.

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**SEE DANIELS DAY MOVIES, Talk About Trails Project,  
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Sept. 14, 8:00 p. m., Sun Electric Corp., 11th & Grove Sts.**